

The Great Depression (1933-1940)

This era is marked by more intense management especially for recreation and for the restoration of the prairie states as a result of the “Dust Bowl” days.

CURRENT ACRES IN FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
176,779,377



THE 10:00 AM POLICY

In 1935, the Forest Service developed the "10:00 am" policy which stipulated that a fire was to be contained and controlled by 10 am following the report of a fire, or, failing that goal, control by 10 am the next day, and so on. Faced with the necessity of controlling a fire overnight, the Forest Service was compelled to call out massive numbers of firefighters to try and control these blazes in the initial attack.

1935 - Goodman's band ended a cross-country tour in L.A. The tour was very disappointing, but when the band opened in L.A., the youngsters went wild. They absolutely loved the music. It is the official start of the “Swing Music” era.



May 21, 1937 • Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan leave from San Francisco in a Lockheed Electra on a round-the-world flight that ends on July 2, 1937, when they disappear in the Pacific.

The Hindenburg Crash

Lakehurst Naval Air Station, New Jersey - May 6th 1937, 7 pm

"It burst into flames! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get this, Charlie! Get this, Charlie! It's fire and it's crashing! It's crashing terrible! Oh, my! Get out of the way, please! It's burning, bursting into flames and is falling on the mooring mast, and all the folks agree that this is terrible. This is the worst of the worst catastrophes in the world! Oh, it's crashing...oh, four or five hundred feet into the sky, and it's a terrific crash, ladies and gentlemen. There's smoke, and there's flames, now, and the frame is crashing to the ground, not quite to the mooring mast...Oh, the humanity, and all the passengers screaming around here!"

Herbert Morrison, a correspondent with Chicago's WLS radio along with his sound engineer, Charlie Nehlsen.



United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1939 – The agency is created in the Department of the Interior.



1940 – Jeep

Karl K. Pabst of the Bantam Car Co., Butler, Pennsylvania, produces a four-wheel drive vehicle that will become famous as the jeep.



U.S. Population - 1940 - 132.1 million

Franklin D. Roosevelt



1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939

1940



Ferdinand A. Silcox

Ferdinand Augustus Silcox, the fifth chief, of the Forest Service was born on Christmas Day in 1882, at Columbus, Georgia. He graduated from the College of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1903, with honors in chemistry and sociology. He went on to take a masters degree in forestry from the Yale Forest School in 1905.

The great depression was in full swing when Silcox took over as chief; he led the Forest Service during some of the most difficult times. He was able to effectively help millions of unemployed workers deal with the depression through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Projects Administration (WPA) projects in the national forests. Silcox's contributions to the forest conservation movement were many, but especially significant was his success in focusing public attention on the conservation problems of private forest land ownership.



1934

Chittenden Nursery established on Manistee National Forest became the largest forest tree nursery in the world.



BLACKWATER FIRE

Shoshone National Forest
Saturday, August 21, 1937

Fifteen men died and thirty-eight were injured when the fire burned over 1700 acres on the Wapiti Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest.

"The Forest Service is forever indebted to the men of Company 1811 of the Civilian Conservation Corps for their courageous and unselfish devotion to duty in fighting the tragic Blackwater forest fire.

Especially will we never forget those who gave their lives or were seriously injured in this effort to protect a great national heritage."

1935 - Elvis Presley is born on January 8th.

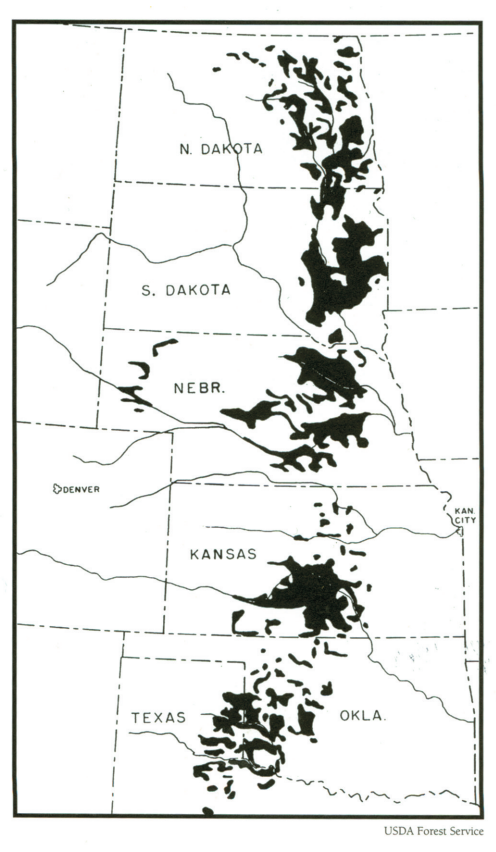
1937 – BANKHEAD-JONES FARM TENANT ACT

authorizes land acquisition for land utilization projects that eventually became the national grasslands. The essence of the Act provided and set out four laws, called Titles, tied together with a preamble that stated the purpose of the laws and how they were to be administered - "To create the Farmers Home Corporation, to promote more secure occupancy of farms and farm homes, to correct economic instability resulting from some present forms of farm tenancy, and for other purposes."

SHELTERBELT PROJECT

Due to the worst drought in US history many crops and farms failed. Thousands of tons of topsoil blew away in what is referred to as the “Dust Bowl”. The Forest Service

was called upon to help reforest and reclaim the land. Shelterbelts or windbreaks were planted throughout the prairie states from the Canadian border south to Texas. With the help of the CCC's and WPA over 200 million trees and shrubs were planted covering 18,600 miles. These shelterbelts created the microclimates necessary for successful crops. Many of the abandoned farms and ranches later became National Grasslands in the 1960's.



THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE OF 1938

September 21, 1938

The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 was one of the most destructive and powerful storms ever to strike southern New England.

Sustained hurricane force winds occurred throughout most of southern New England with sustained winds clocked at 121 mph and a peak gust of 186 mph.



An estimated 2 billion trees were lost.

The Forest Service was called in to help with salvage operations and plans.



1938 - Nylon

A team of researchers working for du Pont de Nemours & Company invents a plastic that can be drawn into strong, silk-like fibers. Nylon will soon become popular as a fabric for hosiery as well as industrial applications such as cordage.

1937 - The Glenn Miller Band debuts in New York.



Earle H. Clapp (Acting)

Earle Hart Clapp, the sixth chief, was born in North Rush, New York, on October 15, 1877. Clapp attended Cornell University, and then transferred to the University of Michigan where he received his B.A. in forestry in 1905. He first started to work for the Forest Service on the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve as a timber surveyor. In 1915, he was made the chief of the new Forest Service branch of research. He was appointed as associate chief in 1935, then to acting chief in 1939 after Chief Silcox died. Clapp was never officially chief of the agency, apparently because President Roosevelt did not want to approve the appointment. Clapp served in an acting capacity until 1943 when Lyle Watts was appointed chief.

PINE TREE PADLOCK

The embossed “Pine Tree Padlock” was supplied to the Forest Service by the Yale Lock Company for a limited time during the 1930's and early 1940's. Hundreds of these locks were produced. Most were used to support the “CCC” program, the Civilian Conservation Corps. These locks secured the many Forest Service guard stations, offices, and recreation improvements which were proudly constructed by the Forest Service CCC's during the 1930's.



McDonald's opened for business in 1940.



SMOKEJUMPING

The first smokejumping on a forest fire took place July 12, 1940 on the Martin Creek Fire on the Nez Perce National Forest of Idaho. The two smokejumpers were Rufus Robinson and Earl Cooley. Earl Cooley was also the spotter on the jump plane at the Mann Gulch Fire in 1949 and later returned to the Red River District, the place of his first jump, as District Ranger.

SMOKE JUMPING AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Forest Service first began experimenting with parachuting in 1939 at Winthrop, WA. By 1940 it had become a standard practice. The lessons learned from smokejumpers proved useful to the new military paratrooper units like the 101st Airborne and the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion during WWII.



1934

Land Utilization Program begins to purchase and restore 11.3 million acres of degraded "dust bowl" lands – now the National Grasslands.



Men carrying logs at Tomichi Camp on the Cochetopa NF (Gunnison)

